

# #fanoebike



## Themed route: Panorama route 404 (29 km)



*Panorama route 404 (wind beneath your wings) is the only sign marked cycling route on Fanø.*

*You can start the route from any point; this description starts by the ferry.*

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## 1. Kikkebjerg



### **Cycling route:**

From the ferry, cycle for 50 m along the cycling path, then turn right and immediately after take a left turn onto Strandslippe. At the end of Strandslippe, turn left on Batterivej which continues onto Hovedgaden. After 240 m, turn right on Lodsvej and follow this road for 630 m until you see a concrete path on your left leading up to Kikkebjerg.

### **Background info:**

From the peak of the 18 m tall Kikkebjerg you can enjoy a magnificent view over the northern tip of Fanø, Nordby and Esbjerg.

During the sailing ships era, Kikkebjerg served as the view point of the local pilot guiding the ships into Nordby. As Esbjerg Harbour took over any sailing traffic, the function of Kikkebjerg ceased. In 1999 there was a strong storm, destroying the old pilot house on top of Kikkebjerg and the current house is a reconstruction.

En route to Kikkebjerg, you can see a lot of interesting remains from the sailing ship era of Fanø, (during the 18th and 19th centuries). For example, in some windows you can observe two glazed ceramic dogs with black snouts and sad expressions. These dogs were the most common souvenir brought home from English harbours.

Some of the names of the houses and the roads on this bit of the route originate from the sailing ship era, (Strandslippe, Navigationsvej, Færgevej, Lodsvej etc.). Moreover, many of the houses you pass were built by captains, second mates and sailors during the 19th century. On the right after you have crossed Vestervejen, you will see the old Maritime Academy building, now serving as the Health Centre of Fanø.

## 2. Fanø Bad



### **Cycling route:**

From Kikkebjerg, go back towards the centre of Nordby on Kikkebjergvej. 750 m later you are at Sprøjtehuspladsen. On the eastern end of this square, continue on Fregatvej for 50 m until it crosses Mellemgaden. Turn left on Mellemgaden for 70 m until Brigvej, then take a right and you are on Konsul Lauritsens Plads. Then follow Hovedgaden in a southern direction until it ends at Strandvejen after 1.1 km. Please note that between July and August parts of Hovedgaden is a pedestrian street, meaning cycling is not allowed. Once you reach Strandvejen, continue west on it for 2.3 km until you reach Fanø Bad and the beach.

### **Background info:**

In the square named Konsul Lauritsens Plads, you find the museum Fanø Skibsfart- og Dragtsamling. Here you will learn about the golden times of Fanø's maritime history, starting in 1741 when the residents of Fanø bought the island from the Danish king. This era ended around the 1900s where most of the shipping lines moved to Esbjerg, Copenhagen and other ports. You also find a collection of the traditional women's clothing in the museum.

Fanø Bad or Fanø Vesterhavsbad was established as Denmark's first sea spa in the 1890s. Sea spas had been established on the German, Dutch, Belgian and French west coast and Denmark wanted one, too. Investors successfully bought a large area of land by Fanø Bad, then building three large hotels, a number of holiday homes, a golf course (and more).

In the years after World War 1, international car races were held on the beach. These races stopped in 1924, however, when a boy died during an attempt on breaking a new speed record. In the 1970s the area dilapidated, so the old spa hotels were replaced by modern holiday apartment complexes. Only a few holiday homes and Kellers Badehotel, originally a bakery, remain from this time.

### 3. Pælebjerg



#### **Cycling route:**

From Fanø Bad, cycle along the beach in a southern direction for 5.5 km until you reach a sign pointing towards Pælebjerg. Follow the path 500 m.

#### **Background info:**

The stretch between Fanø Bad and Rindby presents a very young landscape, only formed after year 2000. Large amounts of sand and sediment is lead to the beach on Fanø, making the beach ever wider. It has become so wide that the area in the middle is now beach meadow and young dunes. South of Rindby Strand a new row of dunes has also appeared, continuing 2 km towards the south to the windsurf/buggy area.

The tall dune named Pælebjerg is part of a chain of dunes stretching from north to south along the west coast of the island. Previously, this row of dunes faced the sea directly but today they are second or third row; a result of the sea transporting more sand onto the island from the west. From the peak of Pælebjerg it is possible to see how a typical wadden sea island develops. In between the row of dunes, wet valleys appear, forming the foundation of special plant and animal life. At the foot of Pælebjerg, the valley is covered in reeds, providing protection for bitterns, marsh harrier and small birds. The bittern is more audible than visible, sounding as if blowing into a large bottle. On the other hand, marsh harriers can often be seen circling above the area.

## 4. Skovlegepladsen



### **Cycling route:**

From Pælebjerg, continue on the path 650 m until you reach the road, Mågekolonivejen. Turn right on the road for 1 km until the end where Skovlegepladsen is.

### **Background info:**

Fanø Skovlegeplads is a playground located on the western outskirts of Fanø Klitplantage. The playground was established in 1997 and has since expanded. It contains an agility track, a Sherwood forest and a fairy tale forest. Most of the playground is made out of wooden sculptures as play tools. On more occasions, international wood sculpture workshops with both European and Danish artist participation have been held, adding new sculptures. On the path between Skovlegepladsen and Postvejen you find fun, educational animal figures. Aside from the playground, there is a picnic area.

## 5. Albue Fuglekøje



### **Cycling route:**

From Skovlegepladsen, continue on the gravel path going east another 900 m until you reach Postvejen/Landevejen. Turn left and go north on the cycling path for 2 km. Cross Postvejen/Landevejen, continue down Albuevej for 1.5 km until you reach Albue Fuglekøje.

### **Background info:**

Albue Fuglekøje (duck decoy) is located in beautiful, natural surroundings near Annedalsbjerg. A duck decoy is a trap consisting

of a small lake with trapping channels, originally used to capture wild ducks. Today it only functions as an open air museum.

Fanø is the only place in Denmark where these three duck decoys were established. Two were in use until 1931 when the use of them was prohibited.

## 6. Klingebjerg



### Cycling route:

Cycle back down Albuevej for 1.1 km, then go right and continue on the cycling path in a northern direction. Follow the path for 3.7 km until it ends in the gravel road, Klingebjergvej.

The dunes found between Klingebjerg and Annedalsbjerg are assumed to be some of the oldest on Fanø. Moreover, it is thought that the first house was in an area here called Hovens Dal. The first church on the island was found here, although the name suggests that the place had religious significance before Christianity.

Today, there are no foundations or remains of the original wooden church, nor the granite church that was later erected. It is, however, possible that the foundation for the baptismal font in Sønderho Church is from the original church.

Moreover, it is believed that the original fishing village named Østerho or Albo was located around here, probably close to what is now know as Albue Fuglekøje, but no archaeological research has been conducted.

## 7. Back to the ferry

### Cycling route:

Go east along Klingebjergvej for 2.9 km until it meets Postvejen/Landevejen. There is no cycling path on Klingebjergvej but it has very little traffic. Cross Postvejen, then go north on the cycling path for 3.1 km until you reach the ferry harbour in Nordby.